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(b) what decisions of the Board have so far been implemented;

(c) how many times the Board met since the present members assumed office;

(d) what decisions have been made during the last four months;

(e) how many decisions have been implemented; and

(f) whether a Sub-Committee of the Board has been formed; if so, when and for what purpose?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) to (f) The answer [a] is placed on the table of the House."

Retrenchment in the Hindustan Ship Building Yard, Visakhapatnam.

* 576 Q.—SRI G. LATCHANNA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that 813 workers of the Hindustan Ship Building Yard have been retrenched recently in Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The Hindustan Shipyard, Limited, have reported that the workers are surplus to the present and even the future requirements of the Company."

Gruel centres in Penukonda taluk.

* 577 Q.—SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) under what class of famine affected area Penukonda taluk is classified;

(b) what is the amount surrendered by the Anantapur District Collector in the month of February;

(c) how many gruel centres were closed in February in Penukonda taluk; and

(d) why they were closed?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—
" (a) Penukonda taluk has been declared as Group B area.

" (b) A sum of Rs. 9,55,000 under Loans under Land Improvement Loans and Agriculturists' Loans Acts and a sum of Rs. 50,000 under Loans for pumping installations were surrendered in February 1953. No amount was surrendered by the Collector out of the allotment for famine relief.

" (c) Twenty-two gruel centres were closed in Penukonda taluk during February 1953.

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[a] Printed as Appendix XII on pages 382–390 infra.

" (d) The gruel centres were closed on account of the improvement in the seasonal conditions at the time of closure."

Cost of living index for the working class.

* 578 Q.—Sri S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the cost of living index for working class for the month of December 1952, the month of January 1953 and February 1953; and

(b) whether the Government have ascertained the probable causes for the sudden increase in the cost of living index?

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (a) The cost of living index numbers for working classes in Madras City for the months of December 1952, January 1953 and February 1953 were 327, 327 and 351, respectively.

" (b) Yes, Sir. The Government are aware of the causes for the rise in the cost of living index. It is mainly due to the fixing of the price of rice in fair price shops, at about As. 12–6 whereas previously it was 10 annas. The price in February was fixed on a basis already fully explained on the floor of the House. As against this the price of wheat broken and issued at fair price shops was 10 annas to As. 10–6 only. This wheat is as easily cooked as rice and would be of much higher nutritional value and would have brought the index down and maintained it at the January level."

Reports and Government Orders regarding irrigation projects.

* 579 Q.—Sri C. SUBBARAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether copies of all reports relating to and Government Orders sanctioning irrigation project schemes are placed in the Legislature Library; and

(b) whether the Government have provided any other alternative source accessible to the Legislators to have the benefit of those reports and Government Orders?

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) This is not being done.

" (b) The Madras Information, the State Administration Reports Parts I and II, and the Administration Reports of the Irrigation Department Parts II-A and B, copies of which are supplied to the Legislature Library give information about the Irrigation projects sanctioned, their cost, etc. If any Member requires further specific information about sanctioned schemes, he can obtain them from the Government or the Chief Engineers concerned."